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# COMMONWEALTH WAS ICED UP

## Capt. Watts Reports Heavy Weather on Passage From Cape Shore.

Coated with heavy ice from stem to stern, sch. Commonwealth, Capt. Frank Watts, arrived at Boston this morning with a 52,000 pound fare of fresh fish from the Cape Shore.

The Commonwealth encountered some heavy weather on the trip home, everything aloft being frozen, so much so that the crew could not lower the foresail. When the craft started to take out this morning, her sail was still suspended and the crew were waiting for it to thaw.

Other arrivals were schs. Laverna, Capt. John McInnis, with 48,000 pounds. Capt. McInnis struck some of the weather while out, reporting the breaking of his mainboom.

The best trip of the winter to be landed by a steam trawler is that of the Wave with 75,000 pounds at the dock this morning.

Opening prices quoted by the wholesalers were \$3.50 to \$4 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$4 to \$4.50 for large and \$2.50 for market cod, \$4 to \$6 for hake, \$4.50 for pollock and \$2 for cusk.

### Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Commonwealth, 20,000 haddock, 26,000 cod, 4000 hake, 2000 cusk.  
Sch. Laverna, 20,000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 2000 cusk, 600 halibut.  
Str. Wave, 64,000 haddock, 3500 cod, 1300 lemon sole, 400 pollock, 800 halibut.

Haddock, \$3.50 to \$4 per cwt.; large cod, \$4 to \$4.50; market cod, \$2.50; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$4.50; cusk, \$2.

## SCH. ALICE LOST JOSEPH ORGAN

### Craft Reached Portland With Big Fare—Previously Reported Two Men Astray.

The Boston fishing schooner Alice Capt. James O'Brien, arrived at Portland Sunday from a three weeks' trip to the Nova Scotia coast with her flag halfmasted for the loss of one of her crew, a man of about 27 years of age named Joseph Organ, a native of Newfoundland and unmarried, who got astray from the vessel in his dory on January 21 during a blinding snow storm.

The crew were all out in their dories when the snow set in thick, but

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they all succeeded in picking up the vessel with the exception of Organ, who was never seen afterward. For more than 24 hours Capt. O'Brien kept up a diligent search for the missing man, blowing horns and burning torches through the night, but failed to locate him, and was at last reluctantly obliged to leave him to his fate.

Although there is a possibility that he may have been picked up by some other vessel, the chances are against him, as during the night following his disappearance there was a very heavy sea running with intensely cold weather.

The Alice at the time was on the Cape Shore in the vicinity of Halifax. She brought in one of the largest fish fares seen at Portland for a long time, about 70,000 pounds, mostly haddock, which have been scarce of late, and the vessel is likely to make a good stock.

Earlier reports credited Capt. O'Brien with the loss of two men, one of which evidently was afterwards picked up.

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## SOME RECENT BIG STOCKS

Sch. Catherine Burke, Capt. Daniel McDonald, stocked \$2433.66 as a result of her recent halibut trip. The crew shared \$52.14 clear. The craft was absent four weeks and a half.

Some of the recent haddocking trips in Boston resulted in good stocks and shares for the owners and crew.

Sch. Elsie, stocked \$1600, the crew sharing \$35 clear.

Sch. Onato, Capt. J. Henry Larkin, stocked \$1900 and the crew shared \$37 clear.

Sch. Conqueror, Capt. Robertson Giffin, stocked \$2460, and the crew shared \$50 clear.

Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, Capt. Val O'Neill, stocked \$2400.

Sch. Arethusa, Capt. Clayton Morrissey, stocked \$2600.

## STILL "BLUE" AT FERNANDINA

The bluefishing situation at Fernandina is "blue" than the fish themselves, and no change is reported since last advices.

A few of the crafts are at present fishing for snappers and bass, although most of them are tied up at the dock. Sch. Marguerite Haskins of this port, Capt. Reuben Cameron was due to leave for home last Saturday, so the Times correspondent writes.

On Sunday, January 26, several of the New York and eastern skippers celebrated on the dock of the New York and Florida Fish Company, entertaining the crews of the entire company's fleet. A splendid session was enjoyed by all.

# BETHULIA IS BEAM TRAWLING

## Former Gill Netter Scooped Up Flounder Fare Off Newburyport.

Sch. Laverna brought down 20,000 pounds of her fresh fare at Boston yesterday which went to the splitters this morning.

Only the small steamers of the gill net fleet, fishing around the shore were out yesterday, small fares prevailing.

Steamer Bethulia which is trying her luck at beam trawling arrived yesterday with 31 barrels of flounders taken off Newburyport.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Laverna, via Boston, 20,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Bryda F., gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Prince Olaf, gill netting, 400 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Hugo, gill netting, 465 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Lorena, gill netting, 820 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Quartette, gill netting, 425 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.  
Str. Bethulia, beam trawling, 31 bbls. flounders.  
Sch. Arethusa, via Boston.  
Sch. Mary Edith, shore.  
Sch. Mary P. Goulart, shore.  
Tug Nellie, towing Senator Gardner, Boston.  
Sch. Manomet, shore.  
Sch. Alice, via Portland.

### Vessels Sailed.

No sailings today.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.75; snappers, \$3.50.  
Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$5.00; medium, \$4.50.  
Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5.50; mediums, \$4.50.  
Cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums \$2.00; snappers, \$1.50.  
Haddock, \$2.00.  
Hake, \$2.00.  
Pollock, \$2.00.

#### Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:  
Haddock, \$1.15 per cwt.  
Eastern cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$2.00; snappers, 75c.  
Western cod, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2.15; snappers, 75c.  
All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.  
Hake, \$1.15.  
Cusk, large, \$2.00; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 50c.  
Dressed pollock, 90c; round, 80c.

Newfoundland bulk salt herring, \$3.50 per bbl.  
Newfoundland pickled herring, \$4.50 per bbl.  
Newfoundland frozen herring, 3 1-2c per lb.  
Fresh halibut, 18c per lb for white and 14c for gray.

#### Salt Fish.

Codfish is in moderate supply, and with a steady consuming demand the market is firm. The market during the week has lacked distinctive features, and quotations are repeated—Fishing Gazette.

## NEW FISH ARE WAY UP TODAY

### With One Fare in New Harbor Dock Are Bringing \$6.85 Per Cwt.

After yesterday's big fleet of arrivals, T wharf had a quiet morning only one fare, sch. Rebecca, having 49,000 pounds.

In addition to yesterday's three more fares reported in the afternoon. They were schs. Mildred Robinson and Flavilla and the sch. Crest.

Opening prices quoted by the wholesalers were \$3 to \$6.85 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$6 to \$7.50 for large and \$3 to \$4 for market cod, \$4 to \$6 for hake, \$5 for pollock and \$3 for cusk.

### Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Rebecca, 25,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 5000 cusk, 4000 pollock.  
Str. Crest, 24,000 haddock, 600 cod, Sch. Mildred Robinson, 43,000 haddock, 7500 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Flavilla, 3000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Haddock \$3 to \$6.85 per cwt.; large cod, \$6 to \$7.50; market cod \$3 to \$4; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$5; cusk, \$3.

## SPOKE THE NEW SCH. HAMMOND

The new schooner Natalie Hammond which left here in a breeze of wind January 12, for her maiden voyage, had a storm of January 21, by Capt. Dan McDonald of sch. Catherine Burke, "The Gully." The trim craft evidently had weathered the gale in good shape and from what could be seen, had suffered no damage. This is the first news from the Hammond since she left port.

Capt. McDonald also spoke of Georgianna, Cynthia and Yakima during the storm. The Yakima had her main boom broken during the gale, but otherwise escaped the elements.



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## The Meanest Fish.

After a most thorough investigation of the habits of the common eel, M. Smith, United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, has come to the conclusion that this little fishy creature is the meanest and most cowardly of all fishes. The eel doesn't seem to have any courage at all, and when any of his neighbors show a disposition to fight, he carries off as fast as he can and won't make a stand, even when approached by something smaller and weaker than himself. But he is always on hand to take advantage of some unfortunate fish that has become hopelessly entangled in a net, or is otherwise unable to defend itself. Hardly a good word can be said for the eel, other than that he makes a good food for us. But he destroys a lot of valuable food by his fondness for the spawn of certain fishes. He does all in his power to keep up the high cost of living.

The principal sufferers from his depredations are the shad and herring. Shad tastes particularly good to the eel, and his methods of feeding on this fish makes him a great pest to fishermen. In streams where gillnetters are laid, the sneaky little eel is at his best in causing trouble. As soon as a fish is caught in one of the nets, he hastens to the spot and begins picking away at the helpless victim and doesn't stop until he has consumed everything but the head and backbone. Very often when fishermen draw up the nets they find most of the catch to consist of heads and backbones of fish that have been attacked by the eels, and spawning shad caught in nets are often found completely emptied of roe, with the eels occupying a comfortable place in the interior of the fish.

## Domestic Mackerel.

The general tone of the mackerel market, based on supplies, was strong, says the Fishing Gazette. While the demand for domestic fish is limited to immediate requirements, the fact that it is practically cleaned up from first hands tends to maintain a firm tone. There have been no quotable changes in price, but the consuming demand is increasing with the approach of Lent, and the general trend of prices is in the favor of sellers. Stocks of Norways here are being gradually reduced, and with no further supplies in sight it would not be at all surprising to see even higher prices reached, as the demand increases and stocks get lower. There is less demand for Irish than for Norways, and this grade of mackerel is about steady.

Liverpool, Jan. 24.—Shipments for week ending today were: To New York, 560 bbls.; to Boston, 267 bbls.; to Philadelphia, 249 bbls.; to St. John, N. B., 641 bbls. Total shipments to date, 1913 Irish autumn, 15,797 bbls.

Liverpool, Jan. 31.—Fishing fair to good. Shipments this week to Boston 2,000 bbls. to all other ports, 93 bbls.

## Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Claudia is in Portland today with 8000 halibut which sold for 10 cents for white and 8 cents for gray.

# "EXILE" WARNS OUR FISHERMEN

## "Keep Away From the Pacific Coast" He Says and Gives His Reasons Why Things Are Better Here.

Eastern fishermen are advised not to go west, in spite of the alluring offers which may be forthcoming from Pacific agents. Such is the admonition given by a writer from the Pacific coast, who in a communication to the Times, tells of the conditions which confronts the fisherman who goes west to seek his fortune.

The letter is as follows:

Seattle, Wash., January 25, 1914.

To the Editor of the Times:—I ask through the columns of the Times to give warning to fishermen who intend coming west this spring, to engage in halibut and dory handlining to stop, look and listen to the following:

Hundreds of men are starving in Seattle, fishermen included, who find the "lure of the west" a bad pill for an empty stomach. In good old Gloucester when a fisherman is "broke" he has in most cases a boarding house where he can find shelter until he ships again. Not so in the west, for without funds, a fisherman is in a bad dilemma.

Olly tongued agents who go back east representing these halibut and codfishing firms, tell luring tales of the money to be made at fishing here. Railroads will charge excessive rates to the west. On arriving here, it will cost the fisherman \$1 a day at the least to live until the vessel sails north.

Credit is given the fishermen at an enormous profit on their outfits and 10 per cent. is charged on cash loans. If a fisherman who lives in Nova Scotia or Gloucester thinks he can better his condition by coming west, he will find to his sorrow ere the end of

the present year, that he has made a sad mistake. Behring Sea handlining convinced me that there is nothing in it. Strong tides prevail there at all times and where a fisherman has to catch his own bait and get onto the "moves", he will find out that he must have experience in that kind of fishing to pay his expenses from east to west, outfits and other expenses that occur to a new man and at the end of five months he will arrive here with a small check coming. I have heard of handliners making \$500 a season, but you can put that down as a rare occurrence.

These large handliners are vessels carrying upwards of 200,000 fish and in most cases are from 20 to 30 days on a passage. The accommodations are small and men do not find the nice berths and light forecables like in the Gloucester "toothpicks." Splitters and salters, mates and cooks are all hired men receiving \$100 per month and upwards yet the poor fellow who goes in the dory has got to do some tall fishing to make \$300 per season. San Francisco vessels find it hard to procure fishermen and I am told that the Union Fish Company of that place has an agent east at the present time, shipping men for vessels of the handline fleet.

Probably they will pay a fisherman from the east about \$30 per 1000 fish. He will "go some" to catch 10,000 fish and it don't take very much mathematics to compute his salary. Fishermen say here, "What are we going to do after we come home from the Behring Sea? That is the question the hungry ones are asking themselves today. And take it from the writer they are legion.

Yours very truly,

EXILE.

## ANOTHER FINE CRAFT SOLD

Sch. Thomas A. Cromwell, owned by Thomas A. Cromwell of Boston and commanded for some time in the fresh halibut fishery by Capt. Augustus G. Hall of this city, has been sold to the Tebos of Grand Bank, N. F. The Cromwell was built at Essex in 1905 and measures 128.91 tons gross and 89.71 tons net.

## Feb. 12 BUT ONE CRAFT AT T WHARF

Outside of the one lone arrival at T wharf, Boston, this morning, not a craft of any sort was reported there up to 9 o'clock. On account of the weather and vapor, dealers were not looking for anything in the arrival line, consequently things were pretty quiet generally during the forenoon. When the mart opened, the thermometer registered 12 below.

## NO COMINGS OR GOINGS

### Cold Unprecedented Puts an Embargo on All Harbor Operations Today.

Thick heavy blankets of vapor enveloped the harbor this morning and not an arrival or sailing was reported. It was the coldest day of the season and all the market boats and gill netters are tied up in port, waiting for the spell to break.

Several of the gill netters who are fishing off shore have not seen their gear for three days now and are consequently anxious to get a favorable day and a lift.

#### Arrivals.

No arrivals today.

#### Vessels Sailed.

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#### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

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